

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-04 /059 W

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R 051540Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0932

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

DIA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PO

SUBJ: DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT CONVERTS INTO PARTY, CALLS

FOR AFM TO PARTICIPATE IN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

REF: (A) LISBON 3717 (NOTAL); (B) LISBON 4693 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: AS EXPECTED, PORTUGUESE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (MDP) HAS CONVERTED INTO POLITICAL PARTY IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO RUN CANDIDATES IN UPCOMING CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS. THEME OF THREE-DAY MEETING WHICH TOOK DECISION IS THAT MDP SHOULD MAINTAIN STRICT UNITY WITH ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM), WHOSE PROGRAM SHOULD BE ADAPTED AND INTERPRETED MORE PROGRESS-IVELY. MDP HAS CALLED ON AFM TO PLAY A PART IN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE AFM MEMBERS RUN AS CANDIDATES UNDER THEIR BANNER. SOCIALIST PARTY MOST HURT BY NEW COMPETITION. END SUMMARY.

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1. WITH 855 DELEGATES IN ATTENDANCE, THE PORTUGUESE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (MDP/CDE), MEETING IN LISBON'S SUPERIOR TECHNICAL INSTITUTE NOVEMBER 1-3, CONVERTED AS EXPECTED INTO A POLITICAL PARTY. DECISION (TAKEN BY VOTE OF 850 TO 3 WITH 2 ABSTENTIONS) MEANS THAT THE MDP WILL COMPETE AGAINST THE SOCIALISTS AND PPD FOR LEFT-OF CENTER VOTES IN NEXT MARCH'S CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS. MDP, WHICH IS "TROJAN HORSE" FOR PCP, WILL BENEFIT COMMUNISTS (AND NOT CUT INTO THEIR VOTES AS IT WILL INTO OTHER PARTIES' SUPPORT) BY ATTRACTING TO IT VOTERS WHO OTHERWISE WOULD NOT DIRECTLY SUPPORT PCP.

2. THREE-DAY MEETING OF MDP LOCAL DELEGATES ATTENDED BY REPS OF PCP, MOVIMENTO DA JUVENTUDE TRABALHADORA, MOVIMENTO DA ESQUERDA SOCIALISTA, MOVIMENTO DEMOCRATICO DAS MULHERES, AND INTERSINDICAL, AS WELL AS BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT(AFM). CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT WERE THE PPD AND THE SOCIALISTS. SIX SECRETARIES OF STATE WHO SYMPATHIZE WITH MDP WERE PRESENT: LABOR (CARLOS CARVALHAS); EMPLOYMENT (BALSEIRO FRAGATA); FISHERIES (MARIO RUIVO); AGRICULTURE (ESTEVEZ BELO); HOUSING (NUNO PORTAS); AND YOUTH AND SPORTS (AVELAS NUNES). OTHER PROMINENT PERSONS ATTENDING ONE OR MORE SESSIONS WERE LISBON CIVIL GOVERNOR MARIO BRUXELAS, AND LABOR MINISTER CAPT. COSTA MARTINS, WHO ALSO MEMBER OF AFM COORDINATING COMMITTEE.

3. DELEGATES DIVIDED INTO 7 WORKING GROUPS DEALING WITH VARIOUS ASPECTS OF DEMOCRATIC STRUGGLE, INFLATION, APPROPRIATE MDP TACTICS, ETC. CONCLUSIONS OF GROUPS ALL PASSED UNANIMOUSLY, AND WILL BE POUCHED EUR/IB AND INR.

4. AS REQUIRED BY NEW ELECTORAL LAW AND LAW ON POLITICAL PARTIES, MDP APPROVED DRAFT PROGRAM AND STATUTES, WHICH WILL BECOME PERMANENT AFTER RATIFICATION BY ANOTHER SESSION (NOV 17) OF NATIONAL ENCOUNTER, PARTY'S NATIONAL LEADERSHIP GROUP. PRINCIPAL THEME OF MDP PROGRAM AND THREE DAYS OF SESSIONS IS THAT UNITY OF MDP WITH AFM MUST BE REINFORCED AND BE A CONSTANT OF ALL OF MDP'S ACTIVITIES IN FUTURE. SPECIFICALLY, THE MDP SAYS ITS PROGRAM IS ONE "LINKING ACTION OF PEOPLE WITH ACTION OF THE GOVERNMENT" WHICH, TRANSLATED, APPARENTLY MEANS THAT MDP WILL EXIST TO SUPPORT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AFM IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE. OBJECTIVES OF AFM PROGRAM, IN VIEW OF MDP, ARE "SUFFICIENTLY BROAD SO THAT INTERESTS OF VAST SECTORS OF POLULATION CAN BE REALIZED FROM SUPPORTING IT". MDP URGES, HOWEVER, THAT AFM PROGRAM BE ADAPTED AND MORE PROGRESSIVELY INTERPRESED. "URGENT AND FIRM MEASURES, AND NECESSARILY RADICAL ONES", SHOULD BE ADOPTED BY AFM IN ORDER TO OVERCOME ECONOMIC POWER OF MONOPOLIES, THE PRINCIPAL SHORT-TERM TARGET OF MDP.

5. ONE OF CONCLUSIONS OF WORK GROUPS IS THAT "AFM SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE WORK OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY", EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH CLOSE INTERACTION WITH DEMOCRATIC FORCES. PARTY LEADER RUI LUIS GOMES, COMMENTING ON THIS TO PRESS, SAID THAT IN HIS OPINION FACT THAT AFM NOT ALLOWED ITSELF TO PRESENT CANDIDATES IN THE CONSTITUENT ELECTIONS WAS "A GRAVE ERROR". (COMMENT: ACCORDING TO ASSISTANT EDITOR OF EXPRESSO, AFM LEADER MELO ANTUNES, IN LUNCHEON WITH EXPRESSO EDITOR BALSEMAO, MANIFESTED HIS PERSONAL BELIEF THAT AFM MEMBERS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO BE CANDIDATES AND SHOULD SUPPORT MDP).

6. ACCORDING TO PREAMBLE TO MDP PROGRAM, PARTY WILL BE "ORIGINAL" IN THAT IT WILL BE EXPRESSION OF "MOST GENERAL, MOST IMPORTANT, AND MOST PRESSING OBJECTIVES OF PEOPLE". NARROW PARTISAN POLITICAL INTERESTS SHOULD BE PUT ASIDE, AND ALL EFFORTS CONCENTRATED ON UNITY AND ORGANIZATION OF PEOPLE TO CRUSH REMNANTS OF FASCIST STATE. PORTUGUESE HISTORY, STATES PREAMBLE, SHOWS THAT PEOPLE DO NOT NEED PARTIES WHICH DO NOT SUBORDINATE THEMSELVES TO WILL OF PEOPLE. "CAPITALIST GAMES OF COMPETING PARTIES" COULD BE MORTAL TO NEW PORTUGAL AND SUPREME EFFORT INSTEAD SHOULD GO TO CREATING BROAD POPULAR UNITY TO TRANSFORM STATE AND BRING ABOUT DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM. (CMMNENT: MDP APPARENTLY HAS IN MIND FORMATION OF A SUPRAPARTY FRONT BETWEEN AFM, ON ONE HAND, AND SOCIALISTS, COMMUNISTS, AND MDP ON THE OTHER, IN ORDER TO WRITE A NEW POPULAR "ANTI-MONOPOLISTIC" CONSTITUTION WHICH WOULD, AMONG OTHER THINGS, INSTITUTIONALIZE POLITICAL ROLE FOR AFM).

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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7. TACTICALLY MDP WATCHWORD IS "NO PROBLEM OF THE PEOPLE IS TOO SMALL FOR US TO HANDLE". ALL TYPES OF LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS LIKE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS, SMALL FARMER'S GROUPS, CONSUMER AND CIVIC CLUBS, ETC., WILL BE ENLISTED IN FIGHT AGAINST MONOPOLIES AND IN FAVOR OF ANTI-FASCIST UNITY.

8. AS EXPECTED, BOTH PPD AND SOCIALIST PARTIES HAVE SEVERELY CONDEMNED MDP TRANSFORMATION INTO POLITICAL PARTY AS A "FRONTAL VIOLATION" OF LAW ON POLITICAL PARTIES, ANTI-DEMOCRATIC, AND ABUSE OF POLITICAL IMMaturity OF PEOPLE WHO DO NOT REALIZE THAT MDP IS A PCP TROJAN HORSE. BOTH PARTIES HAVE RECONFIRMED THEIR EARLIER DECISION TO PULL OUT OF MDP (REF A) AND HAVE BEGUN WHAT WILL PROBABLY BE CONCERTED ATTEMPT TO GET MESSAGE TO RURAL AREAS THAT MDP ONLY ANOTHER NAME FOR COMMUNIST.

9. PARTY WHICH STANDS TO LOSE MOST FROM MDP COMPETITION IS
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SOCIALIST, WHICH IS INCREASINGLY DIVIDED INTERNALLY AND UNDER FIRE FROM LEFT AND RIGHT. SYMPTOMATIC OF PROBLEMS WHICH WILL RESULT FROM MDP COMPETITION WITH SOCIALISTS IS SITUATION AT REPUBLICA (REF B), A PRO-SOCIALIST PAPER WHICH HAS BEEN SCENE OF BITTER DISPUTE BETWEEN MDP AND SOCIALIST STAFF SUPPORTERS AS RESULT OF PRO-SOCIALIST ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED IN RECENT ISSUE BLASTING MDP AS MERE PCP FRONT. SOCIALIST ATTEMPTS TO ATTACK MDP WILL PROBABLY SHAKE LOOSE VOLATILE PS LEFT WING, WHILE THE PPD CONTINUES TO ENTICE THE RIGHT WING SOCIAL DEMOCRATS IN PS. (PS SECRETARY GENERAL MARIO SOARES LEFT SUDDENLY LAST WEEK FOR THE NORTH TO ATTEMPT TO HEAL SPLITS THERE WITH DEFECTION OF GROUP TO PPD).

10. COMMENT: CRUCIAL AND AS YET UNKNOWN FACTOR IS ATTITUDE AFM WILL TAKE. AFM SOURCES HAVE INDICATED TO US PRIVATELY THAT AFM FEARFUL THAT FREE AND FAIR ELECTION WILL RETURN RIGHTIST MAJORITY AND THAT THIS COULD FRUSTRATE AFM'S MAJOR DOMESTIC GOAL OF FAR-REACHING SOCIAL REFORM. TO GUARD AGAINST THIS EVENTUALITY, AFM HAS BEEN SEEKING FORMULA WHICH WOULD PERMIT GENUINE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS TO CONTINUE BUT WOULD PLACE AFM

IN POSITION TO ENSURE THAT RESULT THEREOF DOES NOT DEVIATE PORTUGAL FROM ROAD OF SOCIAL REFORM. THERE HAS BEEN TALK OF IN SOME WAY "INSTITUTIONALIZING" AFM FOR PURPOSE OF MONITORING RESULTS OF ELECTORAL PROCESS, AND THIS MAY WELL BE PART OF PURPOSE BEHIND RECENT FORMATION OF HIGHER COUNCIL OF ARMED FORCES (REPORTED SEPARATELY). OTHER TALK HAS BEEN OF PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES BY AFM DIRECTLY, WHICH, HOWEVER, DISCOUNTED AS BEING INCOMPATIBLE WITH ROLE OF MILITARY. MOST DANGEROUS ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE THAT CLEARLY DESIRED BY MDP (AND PCP) WHICH WOULD BE APPEARANCE OF AFM MEMBERS ON MDP ELECTORAL LISTS WHICH WOULD GIVE THOSE LISTS TREMENDOUS (AND INDEED UNFAIR) ELECTORAL APPEAL. IN ITS INNOCENCE, AFM MIGHTBE ASSUMING THAT, WITH ITS POWER, IT AND NOT PRESENT MDP LEADERSHIP (OR PCP) WOULD CONTROL MDP. THEY COULD BE RIGHT, BUT POTENTIAL FOR AFM TO BE OUTMANIPULATED BY PCP IS OBVIOUS DANGER. WHAT IS CLEAR IS THAT AFM IS THE MAJOR POLITICAL FORCE IN PORTUGAL TODAY AND FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE. QUESTION IS WHETHER IT WILL STAY ON SIDELINES, INFLUENCING EVENTS BY THREAT OF ANOTHER APRIL 25 IF MATTERS DEVIATE FROM ITS DESIRES, OR WHETHER IT WILL PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY IN SHAPING POLITICAL/ECONOMIC/SOCIAL FUTURE OF PORTUGAL. IN EITHER CASE, ADDITIONAL QUESTION IS EXTENT TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH IT CAN KEEP ITSELF ABOVE PARTISAN POLITICS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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